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Letter dated 13 July 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 January to 31 March 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report covers the period from 1 January to 31 March 2010.

2. As at 31 March, the total number of troops in theatre was 9,836. This number includes 1,822 troops from non-NATO countries.

Security situation

3. The overall security situation in Kosovo remained generally calm over the reporting period, with some tensions surrounding the issues of the "parallel structures" and the "strategy for northern Kosovo".

4. On 6 and 7 January, Serbian President Tadic visited Kosovo, specifically the village of Osojane and the Decane Monastery, to celebrate Orthodox Christmas. The Kosovo Force conducted an operation in support of the visit, providing air transportation and security. The visit ended without incident.

5. On 22 January, Bishop Irinej was elected as the new Serbian Patriarch. He is described as a moderate who is open to modernization and, in particular, Serbian aspirations to join the European Union. Patriarch Irinej's enthronement ceremony at the Peć monastery, initially scheduled to take place on 25 April 2010, was delayed until the fall of 2010.

6. On 30 January, a third round of municipal elections was held in Lipjan and Prizren. No incidents were reported. Of the 36 mayoral positions throughout Kosovo, 16 were taken by Democratic Party of Kosovo candidates. Following the elections, a reconfiguration of the leadership in Priština was announced on 31 March, whereby six senior officials were removed from office and a new structure dealing with European Union integration was created.

7. On 2 February, Kosovo police officers in Priština began protests calling for the institutions in Kosovo to implement previous promises relating to salaries and working conditions. The following two days, several other police officers in Uroševac/Ferizaj, Djeneral Janković/Han i Elezit, Peć/Pejë, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë, and Srbica/Skenderaj joined the protests.

8. On 10 February, the court of the European Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) in Priština issued a warrant for the arrest of the leader of the Movement for the Self-Determination of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, to be brought to trial on 2 March 2010. However, owing to the absence of the defendant and his appointed lawyer, the district court of Priština postponed the trial. Kurti used the late notification of court proceedings as an excuse to delay his trial, claiming that he had not been given enough time to prepare. At the end of the reporting period, the trial had not yet commenced. During celebrations on 18 February, activists from the Movement for the Self-Determination of Kosovo began collecting signatures in support of Kurti's activities and against the court proceedings. There were approximately 80,000 signatures by 31 March 2010.

9. On 13 March, a EULEX vehicle and a portable building at the "Dog 31" administrative border line crossing point were damaged by a hand grenade explosion and approximately 20 rounds of automatic rifle fire. During the week prior to the incident, rumours circulated suggesting that EULEX would begin customs collections at Gate 1 and Dog 31 on 15 March. EULEX subsequently confirmed an increase in customs and border operations, but not the collections, as part of a three-phased plan to enhance the rule of law in the north. This incident was believed to be criminally motivated. On 22 March, EULEX initiated a programme of stricter control measures at Gate 1 and Dog 31 and along the railway running from Serbia to Zvečan. On 24 March, EULEX also announced that it was creating electronic records of all persons crossing between Serbia and Kosovo. All these measures were expected to interfere with organized crime groups who conduct cross-border smuggling activities. On 27 March, the Kosovo Force initiated operations to preserve freedom of movement and deter any violent demonstrations in and around Gate 1 and the Dog 31 areas, with the Kosovo Force as a third responder.

10. Starting in February, several demonstrations were organized against the return of some 26 Kosovo Serb families to the village of Zac/Zallc, Istog/Istok municipality. These families are currently living in tents, as most of their houses have either been destroyed or are now occupied by Kosovo Albanian families. The demonstrations are suspected to be led by organized crime leader Sabri Kelmendi on the basis that some of the returnees were alleged by the Kosovo Albanians to have committed crimes in the area during the 1998-1999 war. Both the Kosovo police and EULEX monitored the demonstrations, which ended peacefully.

11. On 24 March, Kosovo Serbs in North Mitrovica and Gračanica commemorated the eleventh anniversary of the start of the NATO air campaign. An estimated 1,700 people turned out in North Mitrovica and about 300 in Gračanica. The event ended peacefully with no violence.

12. A European Union office opened in North Mitrovica on 26 March. The office, called the "European Union House", was created to help ease tensions and to promote European Union activities in northern Kosovo. According to the European Union, the new office would seek cooperation with all relevant local authorities.

Kosovo Force operations

13. Operations in support of Operation Effective Knight continue with the Kosovo Force maintaining a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement in cooperation with the institutions in Kosovo and other international civil groups, by conducting intelligence-driven operations across Kosovo, and using situational awareness, and through the rapid and determined deployment of manoeuvre forces and reserves to deter violence and deal with crisis situations.

14. On 31 January 2010, the Kosovo Force successfully completed its transition to Gate 1 as part of its move to deterrent presence. The Kosovo Force structure changed from multinational task forces to multinational battle groups, albeit within their existing areas of operation. The number of operational camps was also reduced. The new Kosovo Force structures were tested during a series of exercises led by the Kosovo Force Commander, confirming the validity of the Kosovo Force concept, which is designed to lead to a more agile and mobile structure. At all times,

the Kosovo Force will continue to ensure it remains prepared to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement, and, if necessary, act as third responder in support of the Kosovo police and EULEX.

15. On 17 February, the North Atlantic Council endorsed the recommendation of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe to "detach" from the Gazimestan monument (the first property with designated special status). The transfer of responsibility from the Kosovo Force to the Kosovo police took place on 18 March without incident. The Kosovo police is now fully responsible for the security of the site, with the Kosovo Force performing random patrols in the vicinity of the monument on a periodic basis.

16. Tensions continue between the Serbian Electric Company and the Kosovo Electric Company over the control of the Valac electricity substation in northern Kosovo. On 4 March, the Kosovo Electric Company authorities sent a letter to the Kosovo police, EULEX and the Kosovo Force, requesting them to explain why it should not reassert full control of the Valac power station. Pieter Feith, the International Civilian Representative/European Union Special Representative, informed the institutions in Kosovo that there would be no response to the letter; however, efforts to find a solution with Belgrade would be increased. The institutions in Kosovo accepted that proposal. The Kosovo Force maintains a presence in the vicinity of the Valac and Zvecan substations and is prepared to act as third responder in support of the Kosovo police and EULEX. At the end of the reporting period, the situation at the Valac substation remained calm, and work towards reaching a legal or political solution was ongoing.

New tasks of NATO

Kosovo Security Force

17. The training of the Kosovo Security Force continues to progress steadily with approximately 2,000 members now trained, approximately 1,275 of whom are ex-Kosovo Protection Corps members. The percentage of minorities within the Security Force is around 8 per cent, which is still below the goal of 10 per cent. However, a series of recruiting campaigns is addressing this issue.

18. The Force's new skills were put to the test when, on 6 January, it deployed 14 personnel to Albania, including two fully equipped search and rescue teams with medical and supporting elements, in response to an Albanian Government request for relief assistance following extensive flooding. It increased its contribution to 31 personnel on 10 January. The Kosovo Security Force detachment returned to Kosovo on 20 January. This was the first time it had operated outside of Kosovo.

19. The 2010 Kosovo Security Force recruitment campaign commenced on 21 January with an "open house" at all Security Force bases. Five mobile teams deployed within Kosovo to provide information to prospective applicants. The campaign ran until 12 March 2010 and included activities in the area to the north of the Ibar River. The campaign drew 4,373 applicants, including 120 females and 180 members of minorities (including 36 Kosovo Serbs, 48 Kosovo Bosnians, 13 Kosovo Egyptians, 54 Kosovo Turks, 2 Kosovo Gorani, 21 Kosovo Ashkali and 5 Kosovo Roma). The recruitment campaign offered Kosovo youth the opportunity to apply to

a Kosovo Security Force cadet school programme. All applicants were required to undergo a screening and selection process.

20. The screening and selection phase, which began on 22 February and lasted until 9 April, involved medical and physical fitness assessments in addition to interviews. Each day, 150 candidates were invited to attend and, beginning on 10 March, 15 minority persons were invited per day. On 18 March, the first screening board assembled and reviewed the selection criteria in accordance with the regulations for recruitment into the Kosovo Security Force.

21. In response to the participation of the Kosovo Security Force as an armed honour guard in uniform, at a Kosovo Liberation Army commemoration on 5 March, the Military Civil Advisory Division of the Kosovo Force withdrew its support to the Kosovo Security Force from 5 to 10 March.

Summary

22. The overall situation in Kosovo remained generally calm throughout the reporting period, despite wide-ranging socio-economic difficulties and persistent underlying inter-ethnic tensions, in particular in the north. Notwithstanding, the Kosovo Force continued to implement its move to a deterrent presence posture, while retaining the potential to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement in support of the Kosovo police and EULEX, as necessary.